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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF HINDLEY.



FIFTY-SIXTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TOGETHER WITH THE

Report of the Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1956.

HINDLEY :

FRED BRADLEY & SON LTD.

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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HINDLEY.

Chairman of the Council :

Councillor E. GRIME, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council :

Councillor O. MURRAY, C.C.

Members of the Council :

Councillor Miss E. E. BERRY, J.P.

Councillor WM. BLAKELEY.

Councillor J. BRACEGIRDLE.

Councillor J. DUCKER.

Councillor Mrs. H. FARRIMOND.

Councillor F. GREEN.

Councillor C. J. G. HOLLAND.

Councillor T. ISHERWOOD, J.P.

Councillor J. LEE, J.P.

Councillor R. MILNER

Councillor R. OLLERTON.

Councillor J. W. THORLEY.

Councillor A. WOODCOCK.

Chairman of the Health Committee :

Councillor J. W. THORLEY (County Alderman).

Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee :

Councillor R. OLLERTON.

Clerk of the Council :

F. HICKSON, A.C.C.S.

Medical Officer of Health :

G. H. POTTER, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Consultant Obstetrician :

R. L. HARTLEY, M.D., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.O.G.

Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon :

H. B. BARKER, M.B.B.S. (LOND.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

County Dental Surgeon : T. N. ASHALL, L.D.S. (LIVERPOOL).

Public Health Inspectors :

J. T. HAMPSON, Certificate, Royal Society of Health.

Meat Inspector's Certificate—Royal Society of Health.

Smoke Inspector's Certificate—Royal Society of Health.

W. KITTS, Liverpool University School of Hygiene Certificate for
Sanitary Science and Meat and Food Inspection.

Clerical Staff :

Miss E. RIGBY.

Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Hindley.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hindley Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1956.

The Report is again much abbreviated, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, but an endeavour has been made to embrace the most important details, and particularly those which indicate the state of health of the township.

I would like to take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the Officials of the Council and to the staff of the Health Department for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire also to express to the Members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area: 2,612.21 acres.

Population (Preliminary Census, 1951): 19,414.

Estimated, mid-1956 (Registrar General): 19,150.

Total Number of Houses (Census, 1931): 5,140.

Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1956 according to Rate Books: 6,055.

Rateable Value: £120,753.

Sum represented by Penny Rate: £324.09.

Hindley is essentially an industrial area. A cotton mill, a weaving shed, a paint works, an asbestos works, a steel scaffolding works, a paper tube works and five clothing factories give employment to both sexes.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
Live Births—Legitimate	.....	137	130	267
Illegitimate	.....	3	2	5
		<hr/>		
Total	.....	140	132	272
		<hr/>		

		Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
Still Births—Legitimate	.....	4	5	9
Illegitimate	.....	—	—	—
		<hr/>		
Total	.....	4	5	9
		<hr/>		

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:—

		Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
Legitimate	.....	4	5	9
Illegitimate	.....	1	—	1
		<hr/>		
Total	.....	5	5	10
		<hr/>		
DEATHS	.....	131	108	239

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population, mid-1956	14.2
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	12.5
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births	32

TABLE 1

Hindley U.D.C.	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	Total		Neo-natal	
									No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1956	272	*14.2	239	*12.5	9	32	1	3.56	10	37	7	26
Year 1955	239	12.4	243	12.7	13	52	1	3.97	6	25	4	17
Year 1954	253	13.1	235	12.2	10	38	nil	nil	13	51	8	32
Year 1953 ..	274	14.2	189	9.8	12	42	nil	nil	8	29	7	26
Year 1952	276	14.3	247	12.8	9	32	nil	nil	7	25	6	22
Year 1951 ..	283	14.6	293	15.2	7	24	1	3.45	9	32	3	11
Ave 5 years— 1951 - 1955	—	13.7	—	12.5	—	37	—	1.48	—	32	—	—

* Adjusted { live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.00) = 12.4 per 1,000
death-rate (comparability factor, 1.22) = 15.2 per 1,000

Subjoined is a Table showing the causes of the Deaths among Infants under one year of age.

TABLE II.

ANALYSIS OF INFANT DEATHS.

Cause of Death.	Total at all periods up to 1 yr.	Under 1 Mth.	1—3 Months.	4—6 Months.	7—9 Months.	10—11 Months.
Influenzal						
Broncho-Pneumonia	1	—	1	—	—	—
Asphyxia Neonatorum	2	2	—	—	—	—
Prematurity	4	4	—	—	—	—
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1	1	—	—	—	—
Gastro-Enteritis	1	—	1	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	1	—	1	—	—	—

In the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and number of Deaths from each cause in 1956 as compared with the previous year:—

TABLE III.

Cause of Death.	No. of Deaths. 1956.	No. of Deaths. 1955.
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	1	2
Tuberculosis (Other)	1	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—

Cause of Death.	No. of Deaths. 1956.	No. of Deaths. 1955.
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	7	5
Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	4	2
Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	—	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	18	21
Leukaemia; Aleukaemia	1	—
Diabetes	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	24	47
Coronary Disease—Angina	38	40
Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	7
Other Heart Disease	52	27
Other Circulatory Disease	10	5
Influenza	5	3
Pneumonia	8	5
Bronchitis	12	20
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	4
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	4
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	6	7
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	1	1
Congenital Malformations	1	1
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	21	23
Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	2
All other Accidents	6	6
Suicide	4	1
Homicide and Operations of War	—	—
	—	—
	239	243
	—	—

2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Laboratories of Wigan Royal Infirmary and the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and the arrangements are satisfactory. A report on every examination is made to the Public Health Department.

During 1956 reports were made to the Authority on the following specimens: 11 Samples of Water; 95 Samples of Milk; 16 Ice Cream; 23 Ice Lollies, and 9 Faeces.

AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS.

During the year Infectious, Non-Infectious, Accident and Maternity Cases were dealt with by the motor ambulances belonging to the Lancashire County Council stationed at the Hindley Ambulance Station. The service was quite satisfactory.

HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

General Medical and Surgical:—

Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary; Billinge Hospital and Leigh Infirmary; Bolton Infirmary; Manchester Royal Infirmary and Salford Royal Infirmary.

Children:—Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary and Pendlebury Children's Hospital.

Venereal Diseases:—Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary.

Tuberculosis:—County Sanatoria and Hospitals.

Chronic Sick:—Billinge Hospital and Social Welfare Home, Frog Lane, Wigan.

Mental Diseases:—County Mental Hospitals.

Ear, Nose and Throat:—Wigan and Manchester Infirmaries.

Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia:—Arrangements with the Wigan and Leigh Joint Hospital Management Committee.

These facilities are duly appreciated and freely used by the inhabitants of Hindley.

3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply is conducted from the Rivington water main of the Liverpool Corporation to a service reservoir at Westhoughton, from which it is distributed throughout the district. The supply is constant, good and sufficient, and the possibilities of contamination are very slight.

The piped supply of water to the township was examined nine times chemically and twice bacteriologically during 1956. Five samples were reported as having a high iron content, which was thought to be due to work on cleaning of water mains. Satisfactory samples were obtained after the work of re-lining a length of water main had been carried out.

All houses in the district have a piped supply of water from the main, with the exception of three houses in the fields.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Drainage System is of the usual type, storm water and sewage being carried away in a common sewer.

Drain testing, flushing, etc., is carried out as required.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action has been required with regard to the pollution of streams.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION (at the end of 1956):—

Number of Privy Middens	17
Number of Closets attached to Privy Middens	19
Number of Pail Closets	18
Number of Freshwater Closets	6308
Number of Waste Water Closets	Nil
Number of Dry Ashpits for Refuse	Nil
Number of Movable Ashbins for Refuse	6303
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System	6015

Fresh-water closet accommodation is provided for all new property erected in the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A weekly collection of House Refuse is carried out by the Local Authority, under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

Ashbins are emptied regularly by day throughout the year, and three motor vehicles are engaged in the removal of refuse to controlled tips.

There is no destructor in the district.

The Scavenging of streets is under the supervision of the Surveyor.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

343 premises have been visited, but no formal action has been taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950, and the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and offices, and to sanitary conveniences.

The Council undertake to carry out inspection of shops, mainly with regard to the welfare of young persons, for the Lancashire County Council.

CAMPING SITES.

There are none in the district.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Contact is maintained between the Officers of the Health Department and the local Works Managers with regard to smoke abatement.

A time limit of two minutes in each half-hour has been fixed for the emission of black smoke from factory and works chimneys.

The Authority is represented on the Manchester and District Smoke Abatement Committee.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are none in the district.

DISINFESTATION.

Four premises were disinfested during the year:—

Verminous or insanitary conditions	3
Infestation by cockroaches	1

Spraying and dusting with D.D.T. solution and powder has proved effective

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are none in the district.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none in the district.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Regular visits were paid to factories and workshops under the Factories Act, 1937, and their condition was found satisfactory.

SCHOOLS.

There are 11 schools in the district, all of which have an adequate supply of town's water.

All the schools are provided with separate W.C.s, each with its own flushing cistern and drainage to public sewers.

4. HOUSING.

The township consists chiefly of working class houses, which are built in rows and old in type.

The standard of repair has been well maintained, despite the great difficulties of shortage of labour and building materials.

A revised housing survey would be necessary to ascertain reasonably accurately the extent of overcrowding in the district. During the year, 8 cases of known overcrowding were relieved by the allocation of Council Houses.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

	Houses	Flats
Number of new houses erected during the year:		
(a) Total	94	—
(i) By the Local Authority	24	—
(ii) By other Authorities	—	—
(iii) By other bodies and persons	70	—
1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:		
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)		550
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose		1277
(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:		
(a) Number found during Survey, 1955		147
(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year		132
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit		502
2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):—		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished during year:		
(a) Unfit houses		Nil
(b) Other houses		Nil
(2) Number of persons displaced		Nil

	No. of Houses	No. of Persons Displaced
--	------------------	--------------------------------

3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas:—

(1) Houses demolished or closed during the year:

(a) Housing Act, 1936—

(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	11	35
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force	Nil	Nil
(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 12)	Nil	Nil

(b) Housing Act, 1949—

(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2)	Nil	Nil
---	-----	-----

(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953—

(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2)	Nil	Nil
---	-----	-----

No. of Houses

(2) Repairs during the year:

(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts	276
(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied—	
(i) By owners	93
(ii) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

(c) Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) Houses made fit—

(i) By owners Nil
(ii) By local authority in default of owners Nil

(d) Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954—Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) Nil

4. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):—

(1) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7..... Nil
(2) Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above Nil
(3) Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6) Nil

5. Housing Act, 1949—Improvement grants, etc.:—

Action during year:	Private bodies or individuals.		Local Authority.	
	No. of schemes.	No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected.	No. of schemes.	No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected.
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	1	1	—	—
(b) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	—	—	—	—
(c) Finally approved by Ministry	—	—	—	—
(d) Work completed	1	1	—	—
(e) Additional separate dwellings included in (d) above	—	—	—	—

(f) Any other action taken under the Act None

5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

An adequate supply of milk is produced within, or brought into the district.

During 1956, 95 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, the standards adopted being the Methylene Blue Test, together with the Phosphatase Test in the case of Pasteurised Milk. 91 samples were satisfactory, 3 unsatisfactory, and one test was not completed.

(b) MEAT.

There are no slaughterhouses in the district.

Routine inspections are made of meatshops, etc., and the Meat Regulations are enforced.

No legal proceedings were necessary during the year.

6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1956, cases of Infectious Disease requiring hospital treatment were removed to the Whelley and Astley Hospitals of the Wigan and Leigh Hospital Management Committee.

24 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, as against 101 in 1955, and of the 24 cases, 2 were removed to hospital for treatment.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

Supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are kept at the Divisional Health Office and the local Hospitals.

Free immunisation against Diphtheria is provided for any pre-school or school child, and is performed at the Central Clinic. During 1956, 183 pre-school and 12 school children were immunised with two injections

of Alum Precipitated Toxoid and 208 children received reinforcing injections.

In addition, 192 pre-school children and 4 school children were immunised against Whooping Cough, with Whooping Cough Vaccine only or a combined (Diphtheria-Pertussis or Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis) type of prophylactic.

No preliminary and no post-Schick tests were undertaken.

No immunisation against the Enteric Group was undertaken during 1956.

No local action has been taken with regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation, and there are no existing facilities for the typing of pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type sera.

The general standard of cleanliness and habits in the district remains high, and the cases of infestation by head lice dealt with at the Clinic were few and were successfully treated with D.D.T. Emulsion.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN.

Byelaws for the clean handling of food, made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were adopted by the Council during the year 1951.

Number of food premises in the district at the end of the year:—

Type of business.	No.
General grocers and provision dealers	91
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	10
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.)	6
Meat Shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	29
Bakers and/or confectioners	17
Fried fish shops	31

Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	19
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafés, snack-bars, and similar catering establishments	90
Others	4

Number of food premises registered under Sections 115 and 116 of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938:—

Type of business.	Number registered at 31/12/56.	Number of inspections during the year.
Premises registered for the sale of ice-cream and preserved food	84	74
Food Hawkers' Storage Premises	6	6

During the year small quantities of foodstuffs have been surrendered. Blown tins, etc., have been buried at the foot of the refuse tip.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No action was taken by the Authority during the year under Section 47 of this Act.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1956.

TABLE IV.

Number of cases of Infectious Disease notified; number of Deaths from these Diseases; number of cases removed to Hospital; and Deaths in Hospital during the year 1956.

DISEASE	Total Cases All Ages	Under 1	1—3	3—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 and Over	Age Unknown	Total Deaths	Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital persons belonging to district
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	24	—	1	6	13	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Diphtheria, including Mem- branous Croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (excluding rubella)	8	2	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	44	4	4	14	19	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	10	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	5	—	—	8	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis— Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic	5	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	5	—
Acute Encephalitis— Infective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post Infectious	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	92	7	9	25	37	4	1	2	5	2	—	—	7	—

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection of premises and materials is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department.

All dwelling-houses are dealt with on death, removal to hospital, or release from isolation of infectious cases.

During 1956, 35 houses were disinfected by the Department.

Houses are disinfected by the method of Formalin Spray or Sulphur Dioxide, and it is usual in the district to disinfect after Phthisis.

The Council's Disinfector Station was used during the year.

CANCER.

33 deaths (19 males and 14 females) were certified as due to Cancer during the year.

Facilities for Radium treatment are available to Hindley residents at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at the Wigan Infirmary, which, for this purpose, is a sub-clinic of the Manchester Centre.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No local action has been taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

The administration of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, is undertaken in this area by the staff of the County Medical Officer of Health.

TUBERCULOSIS.

This service is under the control of the Regional Hospital, Board, and Hindley cases attend at the Chest Clinic, Millgate, Wigan.

15 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during 1956, 11 being cases of Pulmonary, and 4 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. One

TABLE VI.

Causes of and Ages at Death for the Year 1956.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of Residents whether occurring within or without the District.									
	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and Up.	All ages	
	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M	F
1—Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	1	
2—Tuberculosis, other	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
3—Syphilitic Disease
4—Diphtheria
5—Whooping Cough
6—Meningococcal Infections
7—Acute Poliomyelitis
8—Measles
9—Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases
10—Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2 2	...	2	2
11—Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	2	3	2	7	...
12—Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	4		4
13—Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus
14—Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	1	5 3	5 4	10	8
15—Leukaemia; Aleukaemia	1	...	1
16—Diabetes	1	...	1
17—Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	1	...	...	...	...	...	6 3	5 9	11	13
18—Coronary Disease, Angina	13 4	8 13	21	17
19—Hypertension with Heart Disease	1 2	1	2
20—Other Heart Disease	1	1 1	7 2	16 24	24	28
21—Other Circulatory Disease	1	1	5 3	6	4
22—Influenza	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 2	3	2
23—Pneumonia	1	1 1	3 2	5	3
24—Bronchitis	1	3 3	2 4	6	7
25—Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	...	1	...
26—Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	2	...
27—Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
28—Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	4 1	...	5	1
29—Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	1	2	...
30—Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	1	...	...	...	1
31—Congenital Malformations	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
32—Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	3 3	...	...	1	...	1	4	2 7	11	10
33—Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1	1	3	1
34—All other Accidents	1	2	...	...	2 1	4	2
35—Suicide	3	1	4	...
36—Homicide and Operations of War
TOTALS	5 5	...	...	2 1	2 1	9 4	55 19 58	78	131	108



death from Pulmonary and one death from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered during the year.

Notification of the disease in the district is quite satisfactory, and no action has been necessary under the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal of tuberculous patients to Hospital.

The subjoined Table shows the new cases of Tuberculosis and the deaths in age groups.

TABLE V.
TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory M	F	Non-Respiratory M	F	Respiratory M	F	Non-Respiratory M	F
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—5	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65—75	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	5	6	1	3	1	—	1	—
	11		4		1		1	

Public Health Inspector's Report for 1956.



To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report of the work of the Health Department for the year 1956.

The greater portion of the work carried out has, once again, been concerned with the repair of defective dwelling houses, but during the year special attention was paid to food premises.

The year has been one of steady progress, the sanitary circumstances of the district have been kept under close observation and attention has been given to the administration of health measures generally.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

Nuisances discovered	2163
Nuisances abated	1688
Houses and premises visited	1846
Number of visits and re-visits	2673
Number of visits to food premises and shops	335
Number of visits to factories	66
Number of visits re drainage	230
Number of visits re refuse collection, disposal and salvage	247
Number of visits re infectious disease	39
Number of visits re rodent control	38
Number of visits re caravans	61
Number of houses disinfected	35
Number of articles disinfected	217
Number of informal notices	172
Number of statutory notices	105
Number of letters sent	198

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH.

Defective water supply and cistern and W.C. pedestals	243
Defective and choked drains	227
Defective roofs	228
Defective gutters, gullies and downspouts	165
Irregular and insanitary yard surfaces	3
Defective brickwork to yard and other walls	93
Chimney stacks, smoky chimneys	39
Dilapidated refuse receptacles	437
Dampness	53
Defective doors, door frames, windows and window frames	218
Insanitary sinks and waste pipes	36
Defective grates and washboilers	36
Defective plasterwork	180
Defective floors	66
Insanitary condition of premises	4
Living vans so placed	79
Insanitary condition of factories and workshops	6
Other nuisances	50

HOUSING.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

During the year 1955 a survey of dwelling houses in the district was carried out. 147 houses were considered to be unfit for human habitation and not capable of being repaired at a reasonable expense.

The Ministry approved the Council's proposal to deal with these properties within the next five years.

During 1956, 11 houses were demolished and 4 houses were repaired and made fit.

6 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received and 4 Certificates were granted.

2 applications for Certificates of Revocation were received and 2 Certificates were granted.

Housing Act, 1949.

Section 4. No advances were made during the year.

Section 20. One Improvement Grant was made during the year, of 50 per cent. of the money spent by an owner-occupier on providing a bathroom.

The houses built post-war by the Council and completed to the 31st December, 1956, number 455.

100	—	B.I.S.Fs.
50	—	Orlit.
20	—	3-Bedroom Type C. Traditional.
57	—	1-Bedroom Bungalows.
120	—	3-Bedroom Type Traditional.
108	—	2-Bedroom Type Traditional.

Completed during the year 1956 — 24.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection and disposal of refuse is carried out by the Local Authority under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector. The service is satisfactory, and, with the exception of holiday periods, a weekly collection of dustbin refuse has been maintained throughout the district.

Three vehicles, each of the side-loading type, with a capacity of seven cubic yards, and 16 men are employed. Two vehicles have been engaged regularly on refuse collection and the third three days per week with the full complement of orderlies. The latter vehicle for the remaining part of the week has been employed in the collection of waste paper from shops, etc., and emptying at monthly intervals the few privy middens that still remain.

Refuse is disposed of at two tips—Orrell Street and Leigh Road. These are adequate and entail the minimum haulage. An attempt has been made to carry out controlled tipping on the lines laid down by the Ministry of Health, but the Orrell Street tip has caused me great concern.

During the year, the amount of labour and covering material available was insufficient. Many fires were started, some, I think, deliberately, and the work of extinguishing them was most objectionable.

The amount of refuse to be dealt with continues to increase with the gradual growth of housing accommodation, which has been raised post-war by 626. There are 6,303 bins and 18 pails to be emptied weekly. The number of loads from ashbins alone totals approximately 3,550, giving a tonnage collection of approximately 7,875 tons. There are now no ashpits in the district.

There are only 19 privies and 18 pail closets in the district, all of which have drainage difficulties.

DUSTBINS.

Since May, 1951, the Council have exercised their powers under Section 75/3 of the Public Health Act to supply dustbins for domestic refuse, such expenditure being charged against the General Rate Fund.

During the year, 437 dilapidated dustbins were replaced and 38 supplied to new houses.

SALVAGE.

Baled waste paper is sold to Thames Board Mills Ltd. under a five-year contract. From 1st July the mills exercised their right to restrict their intake to 50 tons for the second half-year period.

Salvage work and baling was allowed to continue at the normal rate in the hope that this restriction was of a temporary nature. Approximately 17 tons were left unsold at the end of the year.

The incentive bonus scheme remained in operation throughout the year, but, due to the restriction, no payment was made for the October-December quarter.

Workmen employed on this service are allowed a bonus of $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. of the price obtained on all collections between 24 and 30 tons per quarter and 50 per cent of the price obtained on all collections exceeding 30 tons per quarter.

	1956.			£	s.	d.
	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.			
Waste Paper	120	8	2	1023	14	0
Rag Pulp, String and Sacking	3	11	2	21	9	0
Tins	14	9	0	75	12	11
TOTAL	138	9	0	£1120	15	11

	1955.			£	s.	d.
	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.			
Waste Paper	110	8	2	950	2	2
Rag Pulp, String and Sacking	2	11	1	16	1	9
Tins	4	6	1	13	14	2
TOTAL	117	6	0	£979	18	1

WATER SUPPLY.

All houses in the district have the town's supply laid on excepting:

Barlow's Farm	—	Agricultural only.
Good Cheap Farm	—	Agricultural only.
Six Acre Farm	—	Agricultural only.

MILK SUPPLY.

The consumption of heat-treated milk is rising from year to year. The general public are now demanding bottled milk, with the result that small producers are gradually declining in number.

Number of registered distributors operating from:—

(a) Dairies in the district	4
(b) Shops in the district	115
(c) Premises outside the district	9

Number of licences issued during 1956 in respect of:—

(a) Tuberculin tested milk	9
(b) Pasteurised milk	37
(c) Sterilised milk	124

MILK SAMPLES.

Raw Milk:—

During the year, 12 samples were submitted to the biological test (examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli). 11 were found to be negative and the test on one sample was not completed.

14 samples were submitted to the methylene blue test. 11 were satisfactory and 3 unsatisfactory.

Heat Treated Milk:—

(a) Pasteurised—

25 samples were submitted to the phosphatase test. All were satisfactory.

25 samples were submitted to the methylene blue test. All were satisfactory.

(b) Sterilised—

19 samples were submitted to the turbidity test. All were satisfactory.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.
SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1954.

These Acts prohibit the slaughtering and stunning of animals except by licensed slaughtermen and require all animals to be stunned by a mechanically operated instrument prior to slaughter. Two persons are licensed by the Council to slaughter under the Acts.

MEAT INSPECTION.

There are no slaughterhouses in the district.

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following table denotes the various foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption, all of which were voluntarily surrendered.

Nature of Food.	Amount Surrendered.
Canned Ham	37 lbs. 6 ozs.
Canned Stewed Steak	8 lbs.
Canned Ox Tongue	36 lbs.
Canned Tomatoes	8 lbs. 5 ozs.
Buttock and Steak piece	65 lbs.
Corned Beef	12 lbs.
Potatoes	2874 lbs.
Gelatine	17 lbs.

BAKERIES AND BAKEHOUSES.

The number of bakeries and bakehouses in the district is 14. Periodical inspections are made. In a few instances it has been necessary to draw occupiers' attention to minor defects. In each case these matters were given prompt attention.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

The County Council is the Authority responsible for the carrying out of the provisions relating to food sampling.

The following samples have been taken in the district and submitted for analysis by the County Council's Sampling Officer:—

Milk (including one sample of Channel Islands Milk)	50
Treacle	2
Syrup	1
Tea	1
Cream of Tartar	1
Sago	1
Rice	1
Tapioca	1
Table Salt	1
Cooking Salt	1
Syrup of Figs	1
Vinegar	3
Canned Meat (Steak)	1
Pickles (various)	4
Suet	1
Table Jelly	1
Cooking Fat	3
Lard	1
Dried Fruit	8
Christmas Pudding	1
Coffee	1
Coffee and Chicory Essence	2
Pearl Barley	1
Lemon Cheese	1
Chicken Fillets (canned)	1
Canned Pudding	1
Baking Powder	1

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine, with the exception of the following:—

Sample.	Result of Analysis.	Action Taken.
1 Channel Islands Milk.	Fat content only 3.8%, low in solids-not-fat.	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food informed.
1 Milk.	Deficient 5% fat.	Vendor notified.

ICE CREAM.

There is one manufacturer in the district. The premises, heat treatment plant and equipment are consistent with modern standards and a high degree of cleanliness is maintained. The number of retailers of iced products continues to increase, and we now have 84 on the register. These are chiefly grocers' shops and mixed businesses. Each is provided with a modern refrigerator and sells a pre-packed product.

The grades achieved from the 16 samples submitted to the methylene blue test were as follows:—

13 samples	Grade 1.
2 samples	Grade 2.
Nil	Grade 3.
1 sample	Grade 4.

ICE LOLLIES.

The grades achieved from the 23 samples submitted were as follows:—

5 samples	Grade 1.
Nil	Grade 2.
Nil	Grade 3.
Nil	Grade 4.

14 samples satisfied the b. coli test.

4 samples failed to satisfy the b. coli test.

FOOD PREMISES.

A considerable amount of time, more than in previous years, has been

devoted to inspection of food premises. On these visits the importance of attaining and maintaining a high standard of hygiene in relation to the premises and to the handling of food was stressed.

In recent years there has been a gradual improvement and raising of the standard of hygiene, but in 1956, due to the enforcement of the new Food Hygiene Regulations, there has been a marked improvement.

The intention of these Regulations, briefly, is to ensure that clean food is manufactured in and sold from clean premises by clean people.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Each house is visited and enquiries made relative to the source of infection and general home conditions. Recommendations are made and advice given regarding isolation of the patient and care to be exercised by contacts.

Public Library books from infected premises are taken over by the Public Health Department and disinfected before being returned to the Library for re-distribution. Books in an unserviceable condition are, by arrangement with the Librarian, destroyed. 8 library books were disinfected during the year.

All houses are disinfected after various forms of Infectious Disease, including Tuberculosis, with a solution of Formalin.

Schools disinfected—12.

During the year, 35 houses were disinfected after Infectious Disease. 217 articles of clothing passed through the steam disinfectator.

Number of articles destroyed, chiefly flock beds and mattresses—44.

DISINFECTION.

Disinfectants supplied free (liquid and powder), special bottles being provided for the liquid. A charge of 6d. is made for the first bottle, and is renewed free in exchange for the empty bottle. During the year, 355 bottles were supplied—87 sales and 268 re-issues.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, including inspections made by Public Health Inspector:—

Premises.	Number of Inspections.	Written Notices.
Factories, Mechanical Power (49)	46	1
Factories, Non-Mechanical Power (1)	2	—
Building Sites (10)	18	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	66	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>

REGISTERED PREMISES.

Bakers and Confectioners	13
'Bus Depot	1
Braiding	1
Building Operations	10
Builders	2
Brickworks	1
Conveyor Belting Manufacturers	1
Clothing Manufacturers	6
Cotton Spinning and Weaving	2
Electric Welders	1
Firelighter Manufacturers	1
Furniture Manufacturers	1
Glove Manufacturers	1
Gas Holders	1
Iron Foundry	1
Motor Vehicle Repairers	3
Printers	4
Paint Works	2
Paper Tube Manufacturers	1
Plastic Moulding	1

Sheet Metal Works	1
Scouring Stone Manufacturers	1
Shoe Repairers	2
Steel Scaffolding Manufacturers	1
Timber Reclamation	1
	<hr/>
	60
	<hr/>

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

In September, 1947, the Council adopted a time limit consistent with the National Smoke Abatement Council's recommendations of a maximum emission of black smoke of two minutes per half-hour.

No formal action was necessary during the year. Only on rare occasions is it necessary to contact industrial firms, who endeavour to co-operate in every way to minimise the nuisance from smoke.

RODENT CONTROL.

One part-time operative is employed by the Authority. All complaints of infestation by rats and mice were effectively dealt with, and the operative made frequent inspections throughout the district. Farms, refuse tips, sewage disposal works, municipal undertakings and private premises were kept under observation and infestations attacked with excellent results.

The sewers were treated twice during the year, after a 10 per cent. test had been carried out, to comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The following abstract from the Annual Report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food indicates the nature and extent of work carried out:—

TYPE OF PROPERTY.

	Total.	Local Authority.	Dwelling Houses.	Agri-cultural.	All others, including business premises.
Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1956 as a result of:—					
(a) Notification	224	8	204	—	12
(b) Survey or otherwise	269	3	253	13	—
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by rats:—					
Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	221	10	208	—	3
Number of properties which were found to be seriously infested by mice					
	48	1	42	—	5
Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority					
	269	11	250	—	8

The Council give a free service for the treatment of infestations found at dwelling houses, a charge being made for the treating of business premises on a basis of actual cost of labour and materials plus 15 per cent. administration.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

There are two registered premises within the district.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1950.

Two pet shops were licensed during the year.

CAMPING SITES.

We have no licensed camping sites in the district.

I desire to tender my sincere thanks to the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and the Council, the Clerk, Medical Officer of Health, Surveyor, and other Officials and Members of the Staff for their co-operation and assistance.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JAMES T. HAMPSON,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Engineer and Surveyor's Office,
Town Hall,
Hindley,
13th March, 1957.

Particulars of Rainfall recorded at Platt Bridge Sewage Works
during the year ending 31st December, 1956.

Height of Rain Gauge—98.64 feet above Sea Level.

Area of Hindley—2612.182 Statute Acres.

Month.				Maximum fall in 24 hours in inches.		Total Monthly Rainfall in inches.
	No. of days on which rain fell.			Inches.	Date.	
January	24	0.75	25th	4.69
February	10	0.20	29th	0.59
March	11	0.26	2nd	1.16
April	17	1.13	25th	3.08
May	10	0.23	9th	0.96
June	17	0.29	27th	1.67
July	22	0.75	28th	5.03
August	27	1.08	1st	10.14
September	13	0.65	27th	3.16
October	18	0.50	19th	2.58
November	14	0.35	27th	1.50
December	26	0.46	22nd	3.04
Totals for the year 1956			209			37.60

Total weight of rain which fell in Hindley during the year 1956:—
9,911,247.20 tons.

Previous Annual Rainfall in Inches.											
1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
43.55	37.19	46.15	30.67	37.12	37.80	43.63	45.60	37.07	31.95	48.32	30.75

T. G. GRIME, A.M.I.Mun.E.,
Engineer and Surveyor.

